



## **Arlington Tree Committee Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**Time:** 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:** Conducted via Zoom and in-person @Town Hall Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room:

[ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

**Members:** Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, Mara Vatz

**Tree Warden:** Tim Lecuivre

**Guests:** Olivier Aries, Marina Popova, ConCom Rep Sara Alfaro-Franco, Jackie Anderson, Grant Cook

1. Review Agenda, Introduced Guests.
2. New Member Interest and Next Steps
  - Olivier and Marina will appear at Select Board Meeting Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.
3. Member Roles and Responsibilities for 2024
  - Members encouraged to think about new roles, including Co-Chair, Recording Secretary, and subcommittees (Adopt-a-Tree, Community Canopy, Publicity).
4. Action Items Reviewed
  - QR codes on tree bags: Steve and Susan are working on it.
  - Get ATC listed in Annual Town Report: website changes have been made so member list is correct online now, Annual Report now lists ATC.
  - Community Canopy Program subcommittee: met and will update later.
  - Stratton Safe Walk to School tree update: no new info.
5. Review January Minutes; January minutes were reviewed and APPROVED, with no changes.
6. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
  - Tree Bylaw activity
    - 59 Rublee St. (Builder: Seaver Corporation): no trees being removed. Two trees in the setback will be protected.
    - 821 Mass. Ave. (Builder: Andy Rojas): demolition of house, complete rebuild. There are not setbacks on Mass. Ave., so they will be removing some trees and preserving others, and planting trees. Retail space on the lower level, and three residential condo units on above.

- 6 - 8 Exeter St. (Builder Albert Azayants): complete tear-down/rebuild. no trees being removed (no trees on property); public shade tree out front will be protected.
- 43 Old Middlesex Path (Builder David Gerah): two trees removed. Norway Maple removed by Eversource. A second tree was a healthy Red Maple in the setback, they paid into Trees Please Fund (24-inch tree, \$9,000).
- 211 Florence Ave. (Builder: Seaver; working with Barrett Tree East): no trees to be removed. Preserving two trees on the property, and transplanting a 6" DBH tree onsite.
- Tree Hearings: No activity.
- Questions about the lack of setbacks on Mass. Ave.; Business District zoning has different regulations. How does that affect the "tree every 25 ft" rule? Does Tim have to track that? We are unsure.
- Town Projects & Maintenance activities
  1. Town engineers will be doing sidewalk improvements in East Arlington, east of Lake St., up to the Cambridge line. They want to fix the sidewalks and curbs, and do tree planting (with engineered soils), to include trees in the hardscape. Tim has been helping them identify sites and species. These plantings will be in addition to our existing trees and regular seasonal plantings. There will also be plantings on Warren St.. where they did streetscape work last year.
- Other updates
  - Some trees lost in December and January storms, mostly limbs down and leaders lost. Tim noted that if a tree comes down in a storm it is not necessarily replaced automatically. Residents are asked to submit a Tree Request (via Town website), and Town will provide. The Town wants recipients to both want the tree and be willing to water it.
  - We still have only four members on the Tree Crew; looking for two more.
  - The Town will be advertising for Summer DPW help.
  - **Action:** talk to DPW Director about the new Adjunct Tree Services contract, and maybe adding back of sidewalk planting services to it.
  - Question about redeveloped Mass. Ave. property between AHS and Stop & Shop (north side): they were supposed to plant two trees along the sidewalk. Marina wonders if there was supposed to be a third tree. **Action item: Tim will look into this.**

## 7. Bylaw Discussion

- Three out of the four ATC items proposed for the 2024 Town Meeting Warrant are the purview of the Select Board and Town Manager, rather than governed a separate bylaw. We can lobby the Select Board to change the way they designate the fees for tree removals, but we would have to change a line in the Tree Bylaw that says the fees are based on the cost and care of planting.

## 8. Community Canopy Program Subcommittee Update

- Ideas for Expansion: Olivier, Marina, Eliza, Mary Ellen met to discuss how to achieve goals of the CCP, such as selling to high-need heat island areas and apartment buildings. One idea is a pilot program, mailing an area around a specific address, using the Assessors Map data.

Maybe target the area around 1025 Mass. Ave., where so many trees were removed, and in heat island areas. Also develop mailers for the targeted addresses.

- Could we make planting the trees an AHS service project? Could we offer tree consultations, and make tree-planting assistance available in some cases? Can we use social media to encourage renters to advocate for planting at their apartment complexes?
- Maybe some trees could be available for free?
- Mary Ellen has created a map of all the CCP trees we've provided, color coded by year (370 trees).
- Perhaps we can also do a Fall cycle?
- **Action Item: Keith will get in touch with Nat (New England Nurseries rep) regarding availability of species for tree canopy.**
- Spring Planting.

#### 9. Tree -Related Interactions with Town

- Town Committees / Boards update
  - ZBA: 53 Lansdowne St. Development: Steve tried to convince them to save several very large trees, encouraged them to talk to Tim about it.
  - Parks and Rec. is planning another public input session for Hill's Hill. Draft plan should be out by then

#### 10. New Business

- Shade in Parking lots. Green Streets Arlington has an Article for 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Not sure if the Redevelopment Board will sponsor it. Requires trees in parking lots to provide shade. Hearing is March 4<sup>th</sup>. Article adopts language from Lexington.
- Eliza was asked to speak about trees at Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Marina: Lexington Tree Committee has four new articles they are bringing to Town Meeting. **Action Item: Marina will forward those articles to ATC.**
- ATC gathering celebration. **Action Item: Tim will propose a date.**
- Meet the ATC event: Kickstand or Café Nero. March 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### 11. Review New Action Items.

**Adjourned at 9:00 PM**

**Next Meeting: March 13, 2024**